

LAREDO, TEXAS 78042

LOUIS H. BRUNI WEBB COUNTY JUDGE

(956) 523-4600 Fax (956) 523-5065

Contact: Raul Casso

## WEBB COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2003 (956) 523-4600

## WEBB COUNTY'S PROPOSED BRIDGE BEST DEAL FOR LOCAL TAXPAYERS

Webb County's bridge proposal costs half the price of the city's proposal

WEBB COUNTY, Texas – During a public hearing at the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) on Webb County's application for a new international bridge, Webb County officials detailed the reasons why their proposed location is the best deal for local taxpayers.

"After studying three locations, we selected this site because it is the least expensive and most easily accessible to existing roads," explained Webb County Engineer Tomas Rodriguez. "We are spanning the most narrow point on the river and our site directly connects with existing roads on both the U.S. and Mexico sides."

"This means our bridge project will be the best deal for local taxpayers," said Rodriguez.

According to their respective applications approved by TXDOT, Webb County's proposed bridge will cost \$20.5 million, while the City of Laredo's proposed bridge will cost \$51 million.

"In addition, local taxpayers and families will benefit from the long-term revenues generated by this new bridge," said Webb County Auditor Leo Flores. "With the significant budget cuts coming from both the state and federal governments, Webb County needs additional revenue to continue to provide vital services, such as law enforcement and indigent health care"

"In looking out for the best interests of our local families and taxpayers, Webb County looks forward to building our Webb County Bridge # 1" said County Judge Louis H. Bruni.